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## National-level adoption of international standards on expropriation, compensation, and resettlement

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## **National-Level Adoption of International Standards on Expropriation, Compensation, and Resettlement**

### *Ph.D. Propositions*

1. In most of the 50 countries assessed, national laws fail to comply with international standards on expropriation, compensation, and resettlement as established in the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure.
2. In most of the countries assessed, national laws do not provide a clear definition of public purpose to allow for judicial review, suggesting expropriating authorities have broad discretion to establish a public purpose justification for the expropriation of land.
3. In most of the countries assessed, national laws put poor and marginalized landholders, such as women and indigenous communities, at risk of expropriation without fair compensation.
4. In most of the countries assessed, affected landholders with customary tenure rights must first register their land rights in order to achieve formal recognition and compensation from the government.
5. In most of the countries assessed, laws do establish robust procedures that ensure a comprehensive valuation of compensation, accounting for all of the losses borne by affected populations.
6. In nearly all of the countries assessed, there are significant gaps in national legal frameworks that leave displaced persons without adequate legal protections to ensure that not only physical relocation but also socio- economic reconstruction are provided post- displacement.
7. The expropriation process followed in the Lekki Free Trade Zone case (in Lagos, Nigeria), indicated poor compliance, both in law and in practice, with international recognized standards on expropriation, compensation, and resettlement.
8. The indicator methodology used in this study provides an effective way of benchmarking the status of national-level compliance with international standards; this methodology can be updated over time to show national progress towards international standards and can also be adopted to examine other research topics.
9. Robust statutory and regulatory provisions provide a good starting point on the path towards the realization of responsible and equitable land governance.
10. Trump's Wall sets a new standard to measure ego.